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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KRATON Polymers Research B.V. [NL/NL]; Badhuisweg 3, NL- 1031 CM AMSTERDAM (NL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MUYLDERMANS, Xavier [BE/BE]; KRATON Polymers Research S.A., Monnet Centre, Avenue Jean Monnet 1, B-1348 Ottignies - Louvain-La-Neuve (BE). COIGNOUL, Emmanuelle [BE/BE]; KRATON Polymers Research S.A., Monnet Centre, Avenue Jean Monnet 1, B-1348 Ottignies-Louvain-La-Neuve (BE).
- (74) Agent: KORTEKAAS, Marcel; Kraton Polymers Research B.V, Intellectual Property Services, P.O. Box 37666, NL-1030 BH Amsterdam (NL).
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(54) Title: FOAMABLE POLYMERIC COMPOSITIONS AND ARTICLES CONTAINING FOAMED COMPOSITIONS

(57) Abstract: Foamable compositions which are usable for the manufacture of foamed, flexible, heat resistant, thermoplastic elastomeric articles, and which comprise at least: (a) 100 parts by weight of one or more selectively hydrogenated block copolymers, having at least two resinous blocks A of non-hydrogenated predominantly polymerized monovinyl arene, and a selectively hydrogenated elastomeric block B, wherein said block B prior to hydrogenation being predominantly a polymerized conjugated diene or dienes, said block copolymer having a total apparent molecular weight of at least 250 kg/mole, and containing polymerized monovinyl arene blocks of true molecular weight of at least 18 kg/mole, (b) 5 to 50, preferably from 15 to 40 parts by weight of one or more selectively hydrogenated block copolymers having at least two resinous blocks A of non hydrogenated predominantly polymerized monovinyl arene, and an selectively hydrogenated elastomeric block B', wherein said block B' prior to hydrogenation has been derived from a polymerized conjugated diene or dienes as a major component which may be mixed with minor proportions of other copolymers (e.g. vinyl aromatic) i.e. <25 wt%, and said block copolymer having a total apparent molecular weight in the range of from 50,000 to 180,000, while the resinous blocks A' shown an true molecular weight in the range of from 3 to 20 kg/mole and preferably from 5 to 15 kg/mole, (c) from 25 to 80 parts by weight of a linear crystalline polymer comprising propylene as major component, with a Vicat softening temperature in the range of from 130°C to 180°C and a MFR in the range of from 0.5 to 30 dg/min and a polydispersity index of at least 4.5, (d) from 100 to 250 parts by weight of a softener compatible with blocks B and B', (e) from 0.01 to 3 wt%, relative to the weight of the primary components (a) up to (e) of a solid chemical nucleating agent of the endothermic group in combination with a blowing agent, and optionally (f) one or more secondary components selected from PPO and/or any resins compatible with block copolymer component (a), antioxidants, UV-stabilizers, flame retardants, surface modifying agents and inorganic fillers and foamed articles derived from said compositions.

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